REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 3 and 11-16 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 4-10 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM OBJECTION

Claim 16 was objected to because of an informality. Claim 16 has been cancelled.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Thorland et al. (US 6,457,071) (hereinafter "Thorland").

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thorland.

Thorland discloses a system and method for determining connection accuracy at an interface. The system and method of Thorland includes a host computer 100, a peripheral device 200, and a connection cable 201. Thorland, 5:12-5:15.

In Thorland, the inputs to the peripheral device attached to the conductive lines leading to the connector are all or substantially all bidirectional. During power-up of the system, each line is electrically tri-stated, meaning that the lines are in a high impedance state and neither sink nor source power to any device. When the peripheral is powered up for the first time, these lines, or a portion of the lines, would go into "input-only" mode and present a high impedance connection to the communications bus. Presenting a high impedance connection to the bus prevents any adverse effect on the bus, such as corruption of data thereon. Thorland, 7:21-7:32.

Further in Thorland, the peripheral device could transmit the identification information along one or more selected wires, and the host computer would perform detection so as to locate the expected signal among the wires coming into the host computer side of the connection which may be a motherboard. Thorland, 7:49-7:54.

According to the method of Thorland, in an uncommunicative condition, the host, after a certain period of time, will conclude that the connector is either entirely absent, or connected far from its proper position and can display a message to the user indicating this finding. The peripheral device, being unable to locate an identifying feature on any incoming line may also communicate the lack of connection directly to the user. Such communication can comprise the

use of "blink codes" which cause an LED or other light on the peripheral to turn on and off a fixed number of times, or to turn on a dedicated hazard light specifically indicating a lack of connection to the host. Thorland, 9:18-9:29.

Claims 1 and 3-5

Amended claim 1 recites: "...wherein the indicator is a light emitting diode that turns on in response to the control signal output from the controller, when the host is connected to the AT Attachment Packet Interface (ATAPI) drive via the input/output cable, and turns off when the host is not connected to the AT Attachment Packet Interface (ATAPI) drive via the input/output cable." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 3. As noted in the Office Action, in contrast to claim 1, Thorland discusses that the peripheral device communicates through blinking lights a lack of connection with a host device to a user. The Examiner states that this would be obvious as a design choice.

The ATAPI drive transmits and receives signals with a host computer via the I/O cable. Even when the ATAPI drive does not receive a command from the computer, the ATAPI drive can operate by applied power. Since most ATAPI drives are installed in computers, and can appear operable due to a user mistake or for other reasons even when an I/O cable is not connected properly and the user cannot access the ATAPI drives. Accordingly, it is difficult to check why the ATAPI drives do not work. Even when the user suspects that the I/O cable is not connected properly, the user cannot find out the exact cause of the abnormality of the ATAPI drives without disassembling the computer. Therefore, the positive indication of connection as recited in claim 1 solves the above-mentioned problem. Thorland discusses that the peripheral device may be lacking power or have other problems variously indicated by the LED on the peripheral or host device. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the technical feature of claim 1 where the indicator turns on in response to the control signal output from the controller, when the host is connected to the ATAPI drive via the input/output cable is not merely a design choice and patentably distinguishes over Thorland.

Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 4 and 5 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 6-10

Claim 6 recites: "...when power is applied to the AT Attachment Packet Interface (ATAPI) drive, setting a flag that checks the connection state of the input/output cable..." In contrast to claim 6, Thorland does not discuss setting a flag to check the connection state of an I/O cable. Thorland does discuss that when a peripheral device is powered up initially, the connection lines, or at least a portion of them, would go into an input-only mode and present a high impedance connection to the communications bus in order to prevent any corruption of data on the bus. However, this feature of Thorland does not anticipate setting a flag to check a connection state as recited in claim 6. By contrast, the system and method of discusses LED's or other lights to indicate a connection status that does not distinguish between a faulty connection state and a problem with power. As such, it is respectfully submitted that this technical feature of claim 6 patentably distinguishes over Thorland.

Claims 7-10 depend on claim 6 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 11-16

Claims 11-16 have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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